14th March 1929]

Hydro-Electric Developments

Expenditure on the Pykara scheme.

*1725 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the amount spent on the Pykara scheme up till the time for which accounts are available;

(b) how much more has to be spent before the scheme is completed as at present known;

(c) what the percentage of expected return is;

(d) what the original amount estimated for is; and

(e) what the same is after the estimate was revised by Mr. Howard?

A.—(a) & (b) No expenditure has been incurred so far on the Pykara Hydro-electric scheme.

(c), (d) & (e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 92 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th September 1928. Since then, the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Development, has revised his proposals and has submitted estimates for three alternative schemes—(a), (c) and (d)—taking into account varying demands for power. The estimated cost of the three schemes and the returns expected from them are as follows:—

—	Scheme (a)	Scheme (c)	Scheme (d)
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Capital cost during first year of operation ..	2,19,82,300	1,20,12,840	1,76,69,910
Capital cost during tenth year	3,20,75,200	1,32,97,350	1,93,37,450
Return on the sum charge at the end of ten years ..	8·75 per cent.	6·33 per cent.	6·46 per cent.

Excise

Steps taken to reduce the consumption of opium.

*1726 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the districts in which the consumption of opium is in excess of the standard of six seers per 10,000 inhabitants laid down by the League of Nations;

(b) whether any steps are being taken to reduce the consumption and if so, what they are;

(c) whether it is proposed to set up committees to investigate the causes of the high consumption of opium;

(d) what orders have been passed on the report of the Committee appointed to investigate the causes of the high consumption of opium in the East Godavari district;

(e) whether they have considered the raising of the retail selling price as one of the measures calculated to put a check on increased consumption; and

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

(*f*) if the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, why the Government have fixed the retail selling price in the Agency tracts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts at Rs. 85 per seer while it varies in other tracts of the Presidency from Rs. 104-10-0 to Rs. 183 per seer?

A.—(*a*) The Northern Circars, Madras City and the Nilgiris.
(*b*) The Government have called for a report.
(*c*) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.
(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 566 at the meeting of the Council held on 12th October 1928. The position is as there stated.
(*e*) & (*f*) No such proposal has been considered.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—"With reference to (*d*), may I know why orders have not been passed upon the report of the Enquiry Committee in the East Godavari district?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"The enquiry was started at the instance of the Government of India; the report has been forwarded to the Government of India; they have to pass orders but we cannot publish it till they pass orders."

Mr. F. E. James :—"With reference to clause (*b*), may I ask the Government from whom a report has been called for?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"The Commissioner of Excise."

Mr. F. E. James :—"With reference to clause (*c*), may I ask the hon. the Minister to state whether the Government would give a favourable consideration to such a proposal if it were made?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—"I believe the report contains some proposals, and any proposals the hon. Member may make will be considered."

Agriculture

Training of agricultural students at Anakapalle farm.

* 1727 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the question of selecting students from the agricultural classes and training them in batches at Anakapalle farm as stated in answer to question No. 157 answered on 5th September 1928; and

(*b*) if so, with what result?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) It was never contemplated to train batches of students on the Anakapalle Experiment station itself. In the first place, a research station of this sort is not a suitable place on which to train boys and in the second place if students could not be found willing to come to the school and the school farm to be trained, there was no reason to suppose that they would come forward to be trained on the Experiment station which is adjacent to the school.